

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed March 6, 2007, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Application in view of the foregoing Amendments and the following Remarks. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 15-18 have been canceled. Claims 1-14 have been amended. Claims 1-14 remain in this application, of which claims 1, 7, 8, and 14 are independent claims. Claims 19 and 20 are newly added to depend from claim 1, and claims 21 and 22 are newly added to depend from claim 8.

Amendment to Specification

Applicant notices a minor error at page 5, lines 1-5 of the Present Patent Application since the subsequent text in the Patent Application repeatedly states that the output node of the disc drive detection circuit generates a logical ***high*** state such that the micom in the host detects the disc drive 100 as a slave (SL) drive.

Rejection of Claims 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,519,882 to Asano et al. (hereafter referred to as “Asano”).

Claims 15-18 have been canceled.

Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 8-10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-10, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,735,671 to Kida (hereafter referred to as “Kida”) in view of Asano. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In giving an obviousness rejection, the Examiner bears the initial burden of factually supporting a *prima facie* conclusion of obviousness. (See, MPEP, §2142). To establish a *prima*

facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, *the prior art references* must teach or suggest *all the claim limitations*. (See, MPEP, §2142.) (Emphasis added.)

The rejection of claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kida in view of Asano is not appropriate because *inter alia* claims 1 and 8 have been amended, and these prior art references fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of amended claims 1 and 8 and because there is no motivation or suggestion in these references to combine or modify these references to the present invention.

Claims 1 and 8 as amended recite using at least one voltage from at least one of the first and second sets of pins for controlling at least one gate to couple the cable select signal to an output for indicating the state of the disc drive when the jumper is not set across any of the first, second, and third sets of pins.

Support for such limitations is shown in FIG. 4 of the Present Application which shows the buffers 420-2 and 402-3 as the example gates that are controlled by voltages from the pins 42 and 43, respectively.

Kida does not show any sets of pins that are set by jumpers for indicating the state of the disc drive. Asano shows sets of pins 45 and 46 along with 47 and 48 that are set by a jumper for indicating the state of the disc drive. However, as shown in FIGS. 5 and 6 of Asano, a jumper 2 must be used for coupling the cable select signal from the pin 28 to the output 7A and 7B. Thus, Asano does not even remotely mention the situation of using voltages from any of the pins 45,

46, 47, and 48 to control gates such as buffers for coupling the cable select signal to the output node 7A or 7B in the case that the jumper 2 is not set across any of the pins 45, 46, 47, and 48.

In fact Asano touts being able to use just one jumper 2 for indicating the MASTER/SLAVE state whether in a local selection mode (as illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 4) or in a cable selection mode (as illustrated in FIGS. 5 and 6). Thus, by touting use of the one jumper 2, Asano completely fails to address the situation of the jumper 2 being lost/missing to not be set across any of the pins 45, 46, 47, and 48.

Accordingly, a *prima facie* conclusion of obviousness of claims 1 and 8 cannot be established because Kida and/or Asano fails to disclose, suggest, or motivate all the limitations of claims 1 and 8, and the rejection of claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-3 and 5, which depend from and further limit claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable as stated above.

Claims 9-10 and 12, which depend from and further limit claim 8, are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 8 is allowable as stated above.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 6, 7, 11, 13, and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 7 and 14 have been so rewritten.

Claims 4 and 6, which depend from and further limit claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable as stated above.

Claims 11 and 13, which depend from and further limit claim 8, are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 8 is allowable as stated above.

Newly Added Claims

Newly added claims 19 and 20, which depend from and further limit claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable as stated above.

Newly added claims 21 and 22, which depend from and further limit claim 8, are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 8 is allowable as stated above.

Conclusions

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants believe this application to be in condition for allowance.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned should any questions arise with respect to this case that may be addressed by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,
for the Applicant(s)

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE is being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 6th day of June, 2007.


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